

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 JOHANN 00600 170706Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 /024 W
-----170708Z 075269 /11

P 161430Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5758
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMCONSUL DURBAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 0600

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
AGS: PGOV SF
SUBJECT: UP - NP COALITION WITHIN JOHANNESBURG'S CITY COUNCIL
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY. ON MARCH 15, JOHANNESBURG CITY COUNCIL'S
UNITED PARTY (UP) MEMBERS MADE DEAL WITH NATIONALIST PARTY
(NP) REPRESENTATIVES TO SHARE SEATS (3 AND 3) ON IMPORTANT

MANAGEMENT (FINANCE) COMMITTEE, WITH UP LEADER IN CITY
COUNCIL, J.F. OBERHOLZER, CONTINUING AS CHAIRMAN. RECENT
ELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL ON MARCH 2 GAVE PROGRESSIVE REFORM
PARTY (PRPL 19 SEATS, NP 16, AND UP 11. THIS IS FIRST
TIME NP HAS SHARED IN CONTROL OF COUNCIL, HITHERTO
UP-DOMINATED. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING UP-NP DEAL MARCH 15 TO SHARE CONTROL OF
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, MOST IMPORTANT ONE IN JOHANNESBURG
CITY COUNCIL, UP'S PROVINCIAL (TRANSVAAL) LEADER JAPIE BASSON,
CONDEMNED ACTION AS "INIMICAL TO THE INTERESTS OF THE
PARTY. IN THIS I HAVE THE UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT OF MOST
TRANSVAAL MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS." UP'S
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 JOHANN 00600 170706Z

PROVINCIAL HEAD COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO MEET ON MARCH 31
TO DECIDE FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION. ONE OPTION
IS SUSPENSION OF THOSE UP COUNCILLORS WHO MADE OR
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT DEAL. IN ANY EVENT, IT WILL REPRESENT
TEST OF STRENGTH BETWEEN PROVINCIAL AND CITY LEADERSHIPS OF
PARTY.

3. THIS IS FIRST TIME NP HAS EVER HAD SHARE OF CONTROL OF JOHANNESBURG CITY COUNCIL, HISTORICALLY A STRONGHOLD OF OPPOSITION TO ALL NP GOVERNMENTS. SINCE NONE OF THREE PARTIES REPRESENTED IN COUNCIL OBTAINED ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF SEATS IN MARCH 2 ELECTION, ONLY WAY NP COULD HAVE BEEN DENIED POWER WAS DEAL OR COALITION BETWEEN UP AND PRP. BUT PRP, BELIEVING ITS HAND (WITH PLURALITY OF SEZATS) WAS STRONG, OVERPLAYED IT AND LOST OUT IN MANEUVERINGS. IN FACT, KEY UP MEMBERS IN COUNCIL ARE CLOSER IDEOLOGICALLY TO NP THAN TO PRP. OBERHOLZER IN PARTICULAR IS VERY CONSERVATIVE ON RACIAL ISSUES AND COULD CONCEIVABLY LEAD SMALL GROUP OF COHORTS OUT OF UP.

4. COMMENT: WHILE IT IS CONJECTURAL HOW SIGNIFICANT WAS NP ACHIEVEMENT IN INCREASING ITS SEATS TO 16 IN RECENT COUNCIL ELECTION, ITS DEAL WITH UP CERTAINLY REPRESENTS NEW POLITICAL HIGH IN JOHANNESBURG, SINCE PARTY CAN REPRESENT ITS PENETRATION OF COUNTRY' LARGEST CITY'S POWER CENTER AS BOTH PRACTICAL AND SYMBOLIC GAIN. IN ADDITION, NP'S UNITY MAY APPEAR EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE ALONGSIDE FRACTRICIDAL FIGHTING WITHN LOCAL UP.IJOHNSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY ALLIANCE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JOHANN00600
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770091-0685
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770353/aaaabucr.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b8c709b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3089262
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UP - NP COALITION WITHIN JOHANNESBURG'S CITY COUNCIL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SF, (OBERHOLZER, JF)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b8c709b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009